

Message Text

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TAGS: CDES

SUBJECT: MURDER IN LEBANON OF U.S. CITIZEN PAUL WILSON

REF: BEIRUT 3113

1. PAUL WILSON'S FATHER, MR. HENRY WILSON, HAS PROVIDED THE DEPARTMENT WITH MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH HIS SON DECIDED TO TRAVEL TO LEBANON. IN HIS LETTERS TO HIS FAMILY FROM THE KIBBUTZ IN ISRAEL WHERE HE WAS A VOLUNTEER, PAUL SAID THAT HE WOULD TRAVEL FROM CYPRUS TO TURKEY AFTER LEAVING THE KIBBUTZ, BUT HE APPARENTLY ALSO TOLD ISRAELI FRIENDS THAT HE WANTED TO SEE THE "OTHER SIDE" AND WAS INTERESTED IN PALESTINIAN LIVING CONDITIONS IN LEBANON. FATHER THINKS HE MAY HAVE MET PALESTINIANS IN CYPRUS WHO OFFERED TO HELP HIM MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO TRAVEL TO LEBANON, AND MADE SPUR OF THE MOMENT DECISION WHILE IN CYPRUS TO GO TO BEIRUT. ANY LIGHT
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EMBASSY NICOSIA CAN SHED ON THIS, OR ANY RECOLLECTIONS BY CONSULAR OFFICER OR STAFF OF CONVERSATIONS WITH WILSON, BEYOND THAT IN NICOSIA 1277, WOULD BE USEFUL. IN PARTICULAR, WAS WILSON WARNED ABOUT SECURITY CONDITIONS IN BEIRUT, AND DID HE SEEM AWARE OF THE SITUATION IN LEBANON IN GENERAL? FATHER ALSO ASKS THAT EMBASSY NICOSIA CHECK INTO POSSIBILITY WILSON MAY HAVE LEFT HIS BACKPACK OR OTHER

EFFECTS IN CYPRUS.

2. IN CYPRUS, IT APPEARS WILSON WAS TRAVELING WITH A CANADIAN, JOHN CAMPBELL, WHO HAD BEEN WITH HIM IN ISRAEL. FATHER IS TRYING TO CONTACT CAMPBELL, WHO IS APPARENTLY BACK IN CANADA.

3. ON THE BASIS OF THE SLIM EVIDENCE OF HIS SON'S LETTERS, AND WHAT WE KNOW OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS MURDER, FATHER IS CONVINCED THAT CONTACTS IN CYPRUS MUST HAVE GIVEN ADVANCE NOTICE TO SOMEONE IN LEBANON THAT HE WOULD ARRIVE. HE NOTES THAT WILSON APPARENTLY LEFT THE GREEK SHIP ON BICYCLE, AND SUGGESTS THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE SET OFF ALONE, LEAVING BEIRUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, UNLESS HE HAD BEEN MET AND ESCORTED BY SOME LEBANESE PARTY. HAS IT BEEN POSSIBLE FOR LEBANESE AUTHORITIES TO INTERVIEW ANY OF THE OTHER PASSENGERS ARRIVING ON THE FREIGHTER SOLPHRYN? IS ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ABOUT FRIEND HE LEFT SHIP WITH (BEIRUT 3113)?

4. IN AN EFFORT TO TRACK DOWN ALL LEADS, FATHER HAS BEEN IN CONTACT BY PHONE WITH THE PLO OBSERVOR OFFICE IN NEW YORK. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE OFFICE HAS BLAMED "RIGHTISTS" FOR THE MURDER, BUT FATHER IS CONVINCED THAT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF DETAILS OF THE CASE WHICH WERE NOT PUBLIC (FOR EXAMPLE THAT WEAPON USED WAS MILITARY) INDICATE THAT PLO OFFICE HAD AN EXCHANGE WITH BEIRUT ON THE SUBJECT AND KNOWS MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAN IT IS TELLING HIM.

5. FOR BEIRUT: YOU SHOULD TAKE AN EARLY OCCASION TO DISCUSS THE WILSON CASE AGAIN WITH BOTH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND THE CIVILIAN INVESTIGATOR, CONTINUING TO PRESS FOR AS ACTIVE AN INVESTIGATION AS POSSIBLE. FATHER APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S HELP PROVIDED BY DAO DURING LT. WILSON'S STAY IN BEIRUT, AND PARTICULARLY PRAISED CONOFF RUSSELL'S HANDLING OF THE CASE. HE IS UPSET, HOWEVER, THAT LEBANESE POLICE APPARENTLY TOLD LT. WILSON THAT THEY HAD NOT BEGUN AN INVESTIGATION UNTIL HIS ARRIVAL BECAUSE NO FORMAL COMPLAINT HAD BEEN FILED. IS THIS ACCURATE?

6. AT FATHER'S REQUEST, AND UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, DEPT HAS DECLASSIFIED TELEGRAMS CONCERNING THE WILSON CASE AND PROVIDED COPIES TO FATHER, WITH CAUTION THAT THEY ARE NOT A FINAL REPORT, AND THAT INVOLVEMENT OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE IN CASE SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED IN THE INTEREST OF THE INVESTIGATION. VANCE

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